

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JAKART 00729 180200Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6199
INFO AMCONSUL MEDAN
AMCONSUL SURABAYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 0729

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, ID
SUBJECT: THE PDI IS GLUED TOGETHER AGAIN

REF: (A) 77 JAKARTA 15977, (B) JAKARTA 0520

1. THE EIGHT WEEK OLD SPLIT IN THE INDONESIAN DEMOCRACY PARTY (PDI) WAS FORMALLY SETTLED ON JANUARY 16, WITH THE FORMATION OF A COMPROMISE CENTRAL LEADERSHIP BOARD (DPP) CONTAINING THE MOST PROMINENT PERSONALITIES OF BOTH CONTENTING PDI FACTIONS. THE GOVERNMENT OF INDONESIA (GOI), ACTING PRINCIPALLY THROUGH POLITICAL TROUBLE SHOOTER LT. GEN. ALI MURTOPO, APPARENTLY INTERVENED TO RESOLVE THE PDI EMBROGLIO. THE SETTLEMENT, WHICH MURTOPO HAD ACCURATELY PREDICTED IN ADVANCE (REFERENCE B), WAS IN FACT ANNOUNCED AT THE HEAD-QUARTERS OF THE STATE INTELLIGENCE COORDINATING BOARD (BAKIN), WHERE MURTOPO IS DEPUTY CHIEF.

2. THE SETTLEMENT BROUGHT FOUR MEMBERS OF THE CONTENDING ISNAENI FACTION, WHICH GENERALLY PUSHED FOR A SOFTER PDI STANCE TOWARD THE GOI, INTO THE NEW DPP, REPLACING ALLIES OF PARTY GENERAL CHAIRMAN SANUSI, WHO WAS ONE OF ISNAENI'S MAIN TARGETS. SANUSI RETAINED HIS POSITION, BUT HIS PRINCIPAL LIEUTENANT, USEP, WAS DEMOTED FROM FIRST
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VICE CHAIRMAN TO ONE OF 15 REGULAR VICE CHAIRMEN. ALL THE CHANGES WERE IN THE PNI COMPONENT OF THE BOARD, WHERE THE DISPUTE CENTERED, WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES OF PDI'S OTHER FOUR CONSTITUENT PARTIES (IPKI, MURBA, CATHOLIC AND CHRISTIAN) REMAINING UNCHANGED.

3. NONE OF THE PRINCIPAL PARTY LEADERS WERE WILLING TO

COMMENT PUBLICLY ABOUT THE SETTLEMENT EXCEPT SANUSI, WHO CONCEDED HE WAS NOT "COMPLETELY SATISFIED" WITH THE WAY THINGS WORKED OUT. MURTOPO AND HIS NOMINAL BAKIN BOSS, LT. GEN. YOGA, WERE EQUALLY CLOSE-MOUTHED, ADMITTING ONLY THAT THEY HAD ACTED AS INTERMEDIARIES AT THE INVITATION OF BOTH FACTIONS. PRESIDENTIAL AIDE MAJ. GEN. SUDJONO HUMARDANI, WHO TOOK AN EARLY HAND IN THE SETTLEMENT, PRIVATELY INDICATED TO US PLEASURE WITH OUTCOME.

4. COMMENT: SANUSI AND USEP HAVE OBVIOUSLY LOST GROUND. WHILE THEY PROBABLY RETAIN THE SUPPORT OF THE MAJORITY OF THE NEW DPP, THE GOI UNDOUBTEDLY EXACTED SOME AGREEMENT FROM THEM TO TEMPER THEIR INCREASINGLY OPPOSITIONIST STANCE IN EXCHANGE FOR ALLOWING THEM TO RETAIN THEIR POSITIONS. IF THEY DON'T STAY IN LINE AT LEAST THROUGH SUHARTO'S UPCOMING RE-ELECTION, THEY ARE LIKELY TO BE SUMMARILY REMOVED AT THE PDI CONGRESS THAT, AS PART OF THE SETTLEMENT, HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR "LATER IN 1978."

5. THE GOI, FOR ITS PART, HAS AT LEAST TEMPORARILY REMOVED ONE DIVISIVE WRANGLE FROM THE POLITICAL STAGE, PERMITTING IT TO GIVE INCREASED ATTENTION TO THE POTENTIALLY MORE TROUBLESOME ACTIVITIES OF STUDENT AND OTHER DISSIDENTS.
MASTERS

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